

Message Text

PAGE 01 PHNOM 08296 101155Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 AGR-20 IO-13 IGA-02

OMB-01 DPW-01 /137 W

----- 054118

O R 101040Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2517

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC CP SMITH HI

COMUSMACTHAI

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USSAG NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8296

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ: RICE SITUATION

REF: PHNOM PENH 8114

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A PROJECTION OF THE RICE SITUATION IN
PHNOM PENH COVERING THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 7 THRU AUGUST 19, 1973.

	8/7	8/8	8/9	8/10
BEGINNING STOCK	26,857.5	26,169.2	25,615.2	25,095.2
ROUTE 5	--	--	--	1,500
TOTAL AVAILABLE	26,857.5	26,169.2	25,615.2	26,595.2
LESS DISTRIBUTION	66.2	536.7	520	520
BALANCE	26,191.3	25,632.5	25,095.2	26,075.2
LESS ADJUSTMENT	22.1	17.3	--	--

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 08296 101155Z

BALANCE 26,169.2 25,615.2 25,095.2 26,075.2

	8/11	8/12	8/13	8/14
BEGINNING STOCK	26,075.2	25,555.2	25,035.2	26,015.2

ROUTE 5	--	--	1,500	--
TOTAL AVAILABLE	26,075.2	25,552.2	26,535.2	26,015.2
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520	520	520	520
BALANCE	25,555.2	25,035.2	26,015.2	25,495.2

	8/15	8/16	8/17	8/18
BEGINNING STOCK	25,495.2	24,954.2	24,455.2	23,935.2
ROUTE 5	--	--	--	--
TOTAL AVAILABLE	25,495.2	24,975.2	24,455.2	23,935.2
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520	520	520	520
BALANCE	24,975.2	24,455.2	23,935.2	23,415.2

	8/19
BEGINNING STOCK	23,415.2
ROUTE 5	--
TOTAL AVAILABLE	23,415.2
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520
BALANCE	22,895.2 - 44.0 DAYS

1. IN THE EVENT ROUTSD5 IS CLOSED: 19,895.2 AT 520 - 38.3 DAYS

2. RICE PRICES. OPEN MARKET PRICES FOR RICE INCREASED FOR THE HIGHER GRADES OF RICE WHICH ARE RELATIVELY SCARCE AT THIS TIME AS MOST RELEASES ARE FROM STOCKS OF AMERICAN RICE.

8/11/73

		GKR			
RICE	1 KG.	15 KG.	100 KG.	100 KG.	
1/15	85	1,300	8,000	5,700	
1/25	80	1,150	-	5,500	
1/50	60	850	-	5,000	
BROKENS 1/2	57	900	-	3,700	
BROKENS 3/4	55	800	-	2,500	

3. RICE DISTRIBUTION. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS THE RICE DISTRIBUTION RATE HAS INCREASED TOTALING 649 M/T AUGUST 4, 0 AUG 5 (SUNDAY), 597 M/T AUGUST 6, 666 M/T AUGUST 7, AND 537 M/T AUGUST 8. WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO DETECT A TREND, WE HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 08296 101155Z

CAUTIONED THE GKR NOT TO EXCEED THE 520 M/T PER DAY LEVEL. IN THE LONGER TERM THE RATE CONTINUES TO REMAIN RELATIVELY LOW, HOWEVER, AS THE AVERAGE FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS WAS JUST UNDER 470 M/T PER DAY.

4. THAI RICE. REPORTS FROM BANGKOK INDICATE THAT LY KIM HENG HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT FOR THE SECOND 5,000 M/T OF THAI RICE (BROKENS) ON AUGUST 9 AND AGREEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY TO LOAD THE TOTAL 10,000 M/T OF RICE BEGINNING ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 15. APPROXIMATELY 2,500 M/T WILL BE DISCHARGED IN KONGPONG SOMFOR THE MARITIME PROVINCES AND THE BALANCE WILL BE SENT TO PHNOM PENH VIA THE MEKONG. WE HAVE NOT INCLUDED THE THAI RICE IN OUR PROJECTIONS.

5. RICE AIRLIFTS. RICE AIRLIFTED DURING THE PAST 72 HOURS
AMOUNTS TO FOLLOWING NUMBER OF SORTIES AND METRIC TONS:

	KOMPONG THOM	SVAY RIENG	KOMPONG CHAM
8/7 GKR	5 - 14.2	1 - 3.0	7 - 46.3
AIR AMERICA	NA	9 - 52.0	,-
8/8 GKR	2 - 5.7	2 - 6.0	4 - 29.2
AIR AMERICA	NA	14 - 81.0	NA
8/9 GKR	1 - 2.9	-0-	7 - 50.3
AIR AMERICA	NA	11 - 63.6	NA

MECHANICAL FAILURES ARE THE REASON FOR THE LOW VOLUME OF RICE AIRLIFTED BY THE GKR TO SVAY RIENG DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. AT KOMPONG CHAM, AIR CAMBODGE HAS MANAGED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DAILY SORTIES PURSUANT TO THE TERMINATION OF USAF'S C-130'S FLIGHTS, BUT THE AIRLINE CONTINUES TO FALL SHORT OF THE PROJECTED GOAL OF 70 M/T PER DAY. WITH TIME RUNNING SHORT, THE GKR'S RICE COMMITTEE HAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO ENLIST THE HELP OF AIR AMERICA TO SHORE UP RICE STOCKS IN KOMPONG CHAM. STARTING AUGUST 11, TWO AIR AMERICA AIRCRAFTS, EITHER C123'S OR C-46'S OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH, WILL START FLYING FROM SAIGON TO PHNOM PENH WHERE THEY WILL LOAD RICE AND RUN A TOTAL OF TEN DAILY SORTIES TO KOMPONG CHAM, AND RETURN TO SAIGON AT THE END OF EACH DAY. UNLESS THE GVN ACTS PROMPTLY ON THE GKR'S REQUEST TO POSTPONE THE LATTER'S REPAYMENT IN KIND OF 900 M/T OF RICE, THE AIR AMERICA AIRLIFT FROM SAIGON TO SVAY RIENG WILL BE TERMINATED IN THE MORNING OF AUGUST 11. SHOULD A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM THE GVN NOT BE FORTHCOMING, THE AIR AMERICA AIRLIFT TO SVAY RIENG WILL HAVE TO BE RE-ROUTED VIA PHNOM PENH. IN THE MEANTIME, SVAY RIENG HAS MANAGED TO ALLOCATE ALL THE RICE
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PAGE 04 PHNOM 08296 101155Z

RECEIVED FROM SAIGON TOWARDS THE SETTING UP OF A SECURITY STOCK. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF RICE AIRLIFTED TO-DATE TO EACH OF THESE THREE BESIEGED PROVINCIAL CENTERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PLAN TO MEET ON-GOING REQUIREMENTS AND BUILD UP A 30-DAY SECURITY STOCK BY SEPTEMBER 1, IS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) KOMPONG THOM
 - GOAL FOR PERIOD 7/1 THRU 9/1.....600 MT
 - TOTAL AIRLIFTED 7/1 THRU 8/9.....383 MT
- 2) SVAY RIENG
 - GOAL FOR PERIOD 7/15 THRU 9/1.....2,500 MT
 - TOTAL AIRLIFTED 7/15 THRU 8/9.....1,341 MT
- 3) KOMPONG CHAM
 - GOAL FOR PERIOD 7/15 THRU 9/1.....2,000 MT
 - TOTAL AIRLIFTED 7/15 THRU 8/9.....669.6 MT

6. ROUTE 4. NO CHANGE.

7. ROUTE 5. ROUTE 5 REMAINS OPEN AND THE ENEMY DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT TO CLOSE IT AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE RICE CONVOY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH ON AUGUST 9 WAS DELAYED FOR ONE DAY BECAUSE OF LOADING DIFFICULTIES IN BATTAMBANG. GKR STOCKS IN BATTAMBANG ARE ALMOST DEPLETED. SORAPA REPORTS NO

STOCKS; SATRAR ESTIMATES 15,000 TO 20,000 BAGS OF PADDY. THE
NEXT CONVOY IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH ON AUGUST 12
OR 13 AND IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER ALL REMAINING GOVERNMENT STOCKS.
AFTER THAT, ALL FUTURE RICE DELIVERIES FROM BATTAMBANG WILL
DEPEND ON SORAPA'S ABILITY TO BUY ADDITIONAL RICE FROM LOCAL
MERCHANTS. SINCE THE PROVINCE CHIEF CONTINUES TO DRAY HIS FEET,
WE EXPECT THAT ONLY SMALL AMOUNTS OF RICE WILL BE COMING DOWN
ROUTE 5 IN NEAR FUTURE.
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